

## **SITE DESCRIPTION: FORSYTH COUNTY INVENTORY REPORT, 1998**

**SITE #1 NAME:** Abington Wetland Area

**SIZE:** About 35 acres

**SITE SIGNIFICANCE:** County

**QUADRANGLE:** Belews Creek, NC

**LOCATION:** Located in northeastern Forsyth County, about 2.5 air miles north-northwest of Kernersville, NC. The site is about 0.3 air mile south of Vance Road (SR 2014) along Belews Creek. From the south, it can be accessed from Abington Drive (SR 4427) and Habersham Drive off of Kerner Road (SR 2021).

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

Abington Wetland Area is a large wetland centered in the floodplain of Belews Creek. It is surrounded on three sides by roads and housing developments. The wettest part of the area holds water contained by an organic dam which appears to be the result of beaver activity. This shallow, open water area (to 2 feet deep) is a good example of the Piedmont/Mountain Semipermanent Impoundment community type. It appears to have been created sometime since 1976; it contains standing and fallen trees and abundant aquatic vegetation which are habitat for wood ducks, lake fishes, amphibians, and probably several other types of wildlife. Willows and shrub thickets ring some of the open water areas. Abundant wetland herbs grow in areas not shaded by trees and shrubs. The site is beneficial for groundwater recharge, surface water clarification, wildlife, and aesthetics.

Contiguous with the impounded area is an extensive marshy wetland area that holds one to two feet of water; it is best described as a wet marsh zone of the Semipermanent Impoundment community. Its origin is not clear, though it is probably the result of beaver activity and possibly also from activities associated with construction of the residential development. Aerial photography dated from the 1970's shows the whole area was formerly forested. Extensive areas now support expanses of rice cutgrass (*Leersia oryzoides*) and dense thickets of the shrub tag alder (*Alnus serrulata*) at the margins. Green ash trees and the shrubs buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), and swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*) are scattered through the area. Many other areas support a mixture of wetland herbs such as American bur-reed (*Sparganium americanum*), rice cutgrass, cattail (*Typha latifolia*), broadleaf arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*), arrowleaf tearthumb (*Polygonum sagittatum*), the uncommon halberd-leaf tearthumb (*Polygonum arifolium*), the sedge *Carex lurida*, woolgrass bulrush (*Scirpus cyperinus*), and ditch stonecrop (*Penthorum sedoides*). Species at drier margins include New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*), orange touch me not (*Impatiens capensis*), false wood nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), and the flatsedge *Cyperus strigosus*.